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Covert Activities Policy Reviewed

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The Ford administration is undertaking a review of the fundamental question of whether a democratic nation ought to engage in covert operations — such as the newly exposed CIA funding of anti-Marxist institutions in Chile in the period before the fall of President Salvador Allende.

Analysis

The highest policymakers in the administration remain unwilling to confirm or deny that the United States spent between \$8 million and \$11 million on direct authorization of the National Security Council's so-called "40 Committee" on such covert operations. But Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is known to be prepared to discuss the question with the Senate and House committees that theoretically oversee such directed operations. It is also possible that President Ford may work out new arrangements with congressional leaders for future conduct of such operations.

There is no longer any question that the CIA, with approval of the Kissinger-chaired "40 Committee," funneled money into Chile in the period of Allende's election in 1970 until just before he was overthrown by military coup a year ago today.

IT IS ALSO known that the NSC is undergoing

by the Santiago government.

Several U.S. officials have testified before congressional committees that the United States adhered to a policy of non-intervention in the Allende period and these officials may be called to account for what some spokesmen at the Capitol have called "misleading" statements.

In the first month of the Ford administration, these other diplomatic developments are beginning to jell:

- The State Department has now completed a legal study of the question of its continuation of arms shipments to Turkey in light of the invasion of Cyprus. Kissinger has had preliminary discussions with Ford, but no presidential decision of unilateral nature on the Turkish arms shipments is expected until Ford meets on the matter with congressional leaders.

- The United States would heatedly oppose any increase in oil prices that might be set tomorrow when the Organization of Oil-Exporting Countries meets in Vienna. The administration, indeed, regards the existing level of prices as an intolerable strain on the industrial nations.

- Amid increasing signs of flexibility by Turkey and Greece on the Cypriot question, Washington is expected to become more active in the search for a settlement. Since the Cypriot question heated up in the last two weeks of the Nixon administration, Kissinger judged

military coup a year ago today.

IT IS ALSO known that the NSC is undergoing reorganization of an undisclosed nature. A meeting was held at the White House last week and another is scheduled this Saturday, presumably with Kissinger conducting the examination in his other role as national security assistant to the President.

The operations in Chile, which began in 1964, allegedly were not "cloak and dagger" operations but rather a technique, often used by the United States to strengthen democratic institutions and parties in countries where "the other side" — presumably the Russians and Cubans in the case of Chile — are clandestinely supporting non-democratic parties. Kissinger is known to express the view that such operations by a democracy must be carried out with restraint.

In the case of Chile, the justification is suggested that a democracy might be throttled without covert U.S. assistance. The CIA, it is known, designated large amounts of money for the anti-Allende newspaper, El Mercurio, when the price and accessibility of newsprint was used as a weapon

the search for a settlement. Since the Cypriot question heated up in the last two weeks of the Nixon administration, Kissinger judged that direct U.S. diplomacy would do no good in the face of adamant stands taken by the two neighbor states.

There is evidently no apprehension that the United States will be forced to give up its bases in Greece and new bases are not being sought in Turkey. The Greek pullout from NATO actually involved only a handful of Greek officers integrated in NATO command headquarters at Naples.

● Vice presidential-nominee Nelson Rockefeller probably will have no operational foreign policy responsibilities but will continue to be kept posted by Kissinger on foreign affairs and undoubtedly will make trips abroad when he is confirmed.

● Cuba has clearly moderated its verbal attacks against the United States and there is greater receptivity in Havana to talking with Washington than there is for return to the Organization of American States. But there have been no contacts with Cuba and Washington has not made up its mind what stance to take when the OAS votes on lifting the sanctions against Cuba in November.

If it had not been for his opposition to the pardon, terHorst said, he would have tried to work within the administration to make sure he was not again mis-

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